RAWR
Why won't you release the next chapter?!
Can I help you?
What can I do to help?
Fan Girl
It's not like YOU helped out any...
We don't have enough translators or editors
Cross-eyed attempt
Visit our website for details
Find us some translators and editors and you'll have your next chapter
http://www.aerandria.net

AERANDRIA
The rabid souls behind your favorite releases!

Babel no Tegami

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EDITORS: YUZUKI & KOKORO
QUALITY CHECK: MARCELLA

I think love letters are quite beautiful. I hope everyone gets at least one in their life.

- Marcella

Babel's Letter

Asahina Shouko

Both in Heaven and on Earth, it was the end of the 19th Century.

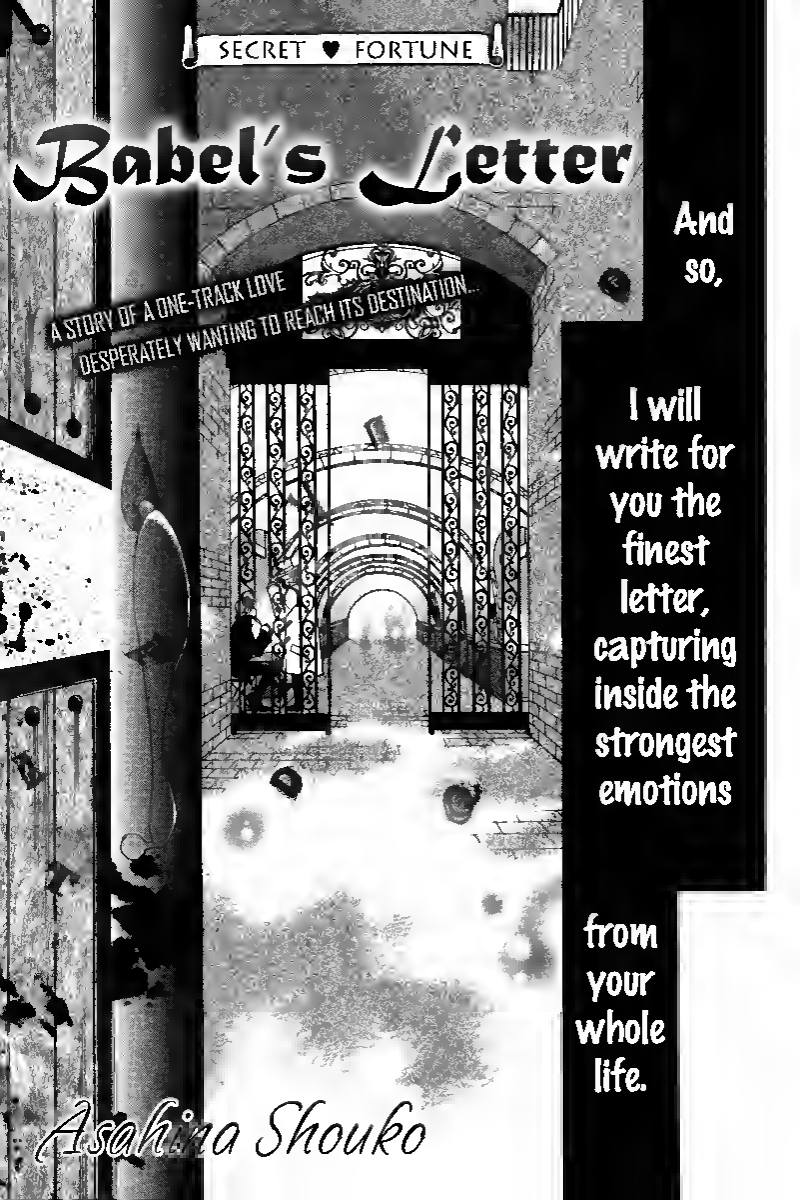
The place was in Eastern Europe: Saint Petersburg* Central Station

THIS HAS ALREADY BECOME MY DAILY ROUTINE.

*NOTE THE SECOND LARGEST CITY IN RUSSIA AND IT'S EX-CAPITAL

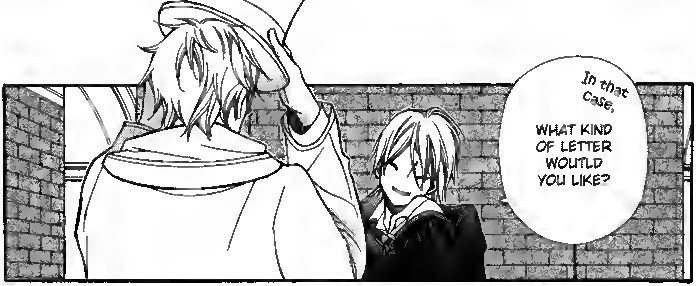
TODAY'S ARTICLE IS ABOUT THE TRANS-SIBERIAN MAIN RAILWAY ACCIDENT.
A GLASS OF VODKA AND THE NEWSPAPER 150 ROUBLES* IN TOTAL
*NOTE RUSSIAN CURRENCY
NOISE
NOISE
I SIT AT THE USUAL SPOT AND LISTEN CAREFULLY TO THE HUSTLE AND BUSTLE OF THE STATION
EXCUSE ME...

SMILE
ARE YOU MR BABEL?
YES
glance
I HEARD THAT YOU COULD WRITE ANY LETTER WHATSOEVER, SO...
Yes
ANY LETTER WHATSOEVER

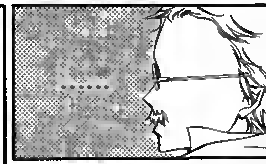

SECRET ♥ FORTUNE
Babel's Letter
A STORY OF A ONE-TRACK LOVE DESPERATELY WANTING TO REACH ITS DESTINATION...
And so,
I will write for you the finest letter, capturing inside the strongest emotions
from your whole life.
Asahina Shouko

WELCOME TO CENTRAL STATION
This is a melting pot for humanity. Gender and status don't matter.
People whose words don't reach their destination people who are no good with words...
and sometimes people who are tired of life are warmly welcomed here.
WE SCRIBES GATHER HERE IN SEARCH OF WORK

ENGLISH, GERMAN, CHINESE, RUSSIAN...
I DON'T MAKE A DISTINCTION BETWEEN LANGUAGES.
...THAT LAST ONE WAS A JOKE.
Moreover,
IF IT IS YOUR WISH, LET US WRITE TO HEAVEN OR TO HELL.
Hmmm...
BUT NO, AFTER ALL, NO. WE LIVE IN DIFFERENT WORLDS.
IT'S ALL RIGHT EVEN IF IT'S FOR A FOREIGN COUNTRY.
YOU ARE JOKING AGAIN
THE RECIPIENT'S TEARS ARE PAYMENT ENOUGH.


In that case,
WHAT KIND OF LETTER WOULD YOU LIKE?

A LOVE LETTER.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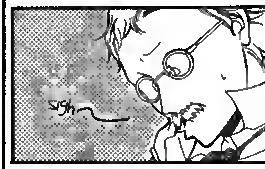
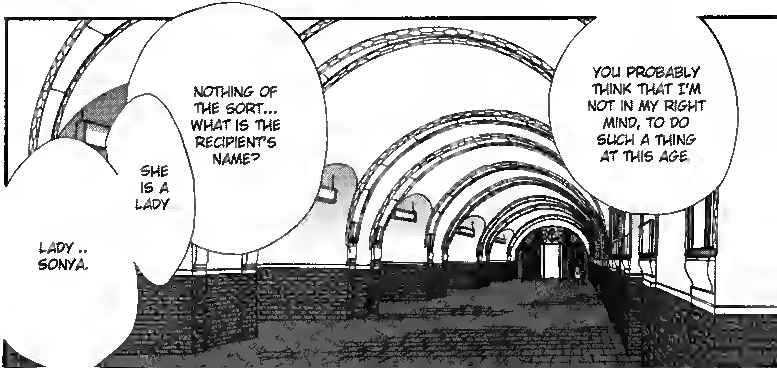

sigh~

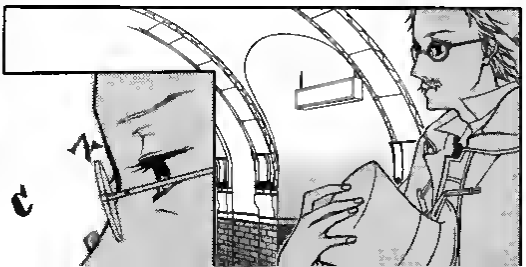

YOU PROBABLY THINK THAT I'M NOT IN MY RIGHT MIND, TO DO SUCH A THING AT THIS AGE.
NOTHING OF THE SORT... WHAT IS THE RECIPIENT'S NAME?
SHE IS A LADY
LADY .. SONYA.

I want to travel through time and see...

my grandfather.

He died six months ago. He lived far away, so I don't have many memories of spending time with him, but now I regret that terribly.

Asahina Shouko



The lady and I met sixty years ago...
HMMM...
SO YOU ARE MIKHAIL, THE SON OF THIS FAMILY'S EXCELLENT STEWARD, NIKOLAI.
That was the first time.
AH, RIGHT ON TIME. LET ME INTRODUCE MY YOUNGEST DAUGHTER
THIS IS SONYA.
MIKHAIL, HOW OLD ARE YOU?
I'M FIFTEEN...
I've been!

EXACTLY THE SAME AGE AS SONYA
PLEASE, HELP MY DAUGHTER.
NICE TO MEET YOU, MIKHAIL.
ANYTHING YOU WISH, MY LADY.

The master's orders are absolute. The bond between us is command and submission.

For generations, my family has served as stewards to the heads of the Elzenshtein house.

However...
TODAY WE'RE HAVING YOUR FAVORITE BORSHCH*, MIKHAIL.
brought it to him excitedly
OH, NO I DON'T DESERVE SUCH A TREAT...!
CLEANING? I'LL DO IT MYSELF!
I always wanted to try using one of these!
YOU SHOULDN'T!
*NOTE: UKRAINIAN SOUP WITH ALL KINDS OF INGREDIENTS BUT BASED ON BEET-JUICE

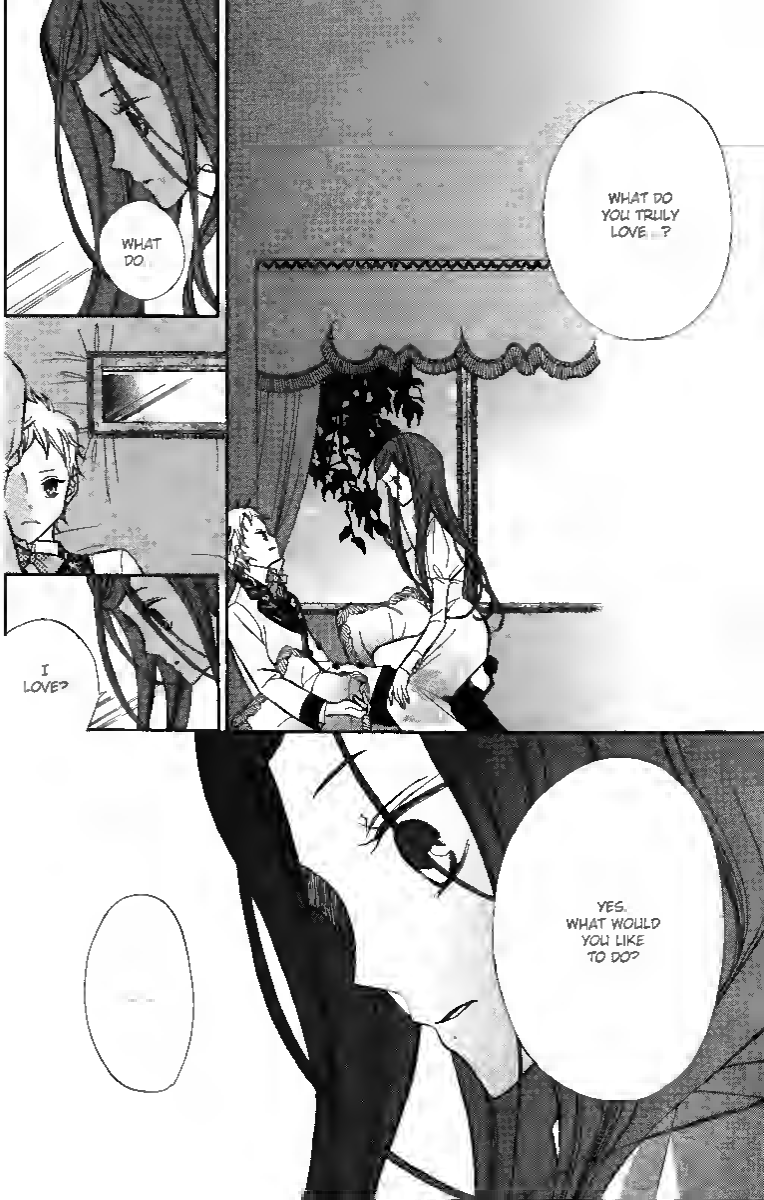
LOOK!!
FRENCH CHOCOLATES! I'M SURE THEY'RE DELICIOUS!
I'll go get the tea
PLEASE DON'T... MY LADY, THIS IS MY JOB!
YOUR FACE SAYS THAT YOU WANT TO TRY THEM.
I DON'T LIKE SWEETS
DON'T SAY SUCH THINGS
EVEN IF YOU TRY TO PUT ON A MASK, YOU CAN'T FOOL MY EYES.

THERE'S STILL SO MUCH TIME BEFORE LUNCH.
PLEASE... EAT THEM WITH ME
The lady was very good-humoured and gentle.
Everyone loved her dearly.
Of course, it didn't take long for me to start feeling the same way
There was only one thing that troubled me...

I WONDER WHICH DRESS FATHER WOULD LIKE THE MOST?
FATHER HATES THIS MELODY
I'M AFRAID TO TRAVEL AT NIGHT, EVEN IN A COACH!
Mikhail I want you to sit next to me!
CLATTER!
CLATTER
COULD I SIT A LITTLE FURTHER FROM YOU?

HEY, MIKHAIL!
THOSE FLOWERS ARE SO BEAUTIFUL!
They look like stars!
Perhaps.
THEY MIGHT BE THE FAMED EDELWEISS FLOWERS.
I'M SURE THAT FATHER WOULD HAVE BEEN VERY HAPPY TO SEE THEM.
I wish I could give him some!
BUT SUCH A PLACE IS DANGEROUS AND I CAN'T GET CLOSE TO THEM.
...
IS THIS AN ORDER, TOO?
.....

THUD
ARGH!
THAT'S ALL YOU EVER SAY!
"ORDER, ORDER!"
YOU ARE LIKE SOME MACHINE!
IF I MAY BE SO BOLD, MY LADY
YOU ARE LIKE A FRENCH DOLL, MY LADY
EH...
YOU ALWAYS ONLY WORRY ABOUT YOUR FATHER'S WISHES


WHAT DO YOU TRULY LOVE...?
WHAT DO...
I LOVE?
YES. WHAT WOULD YOU LIKE TO DO?

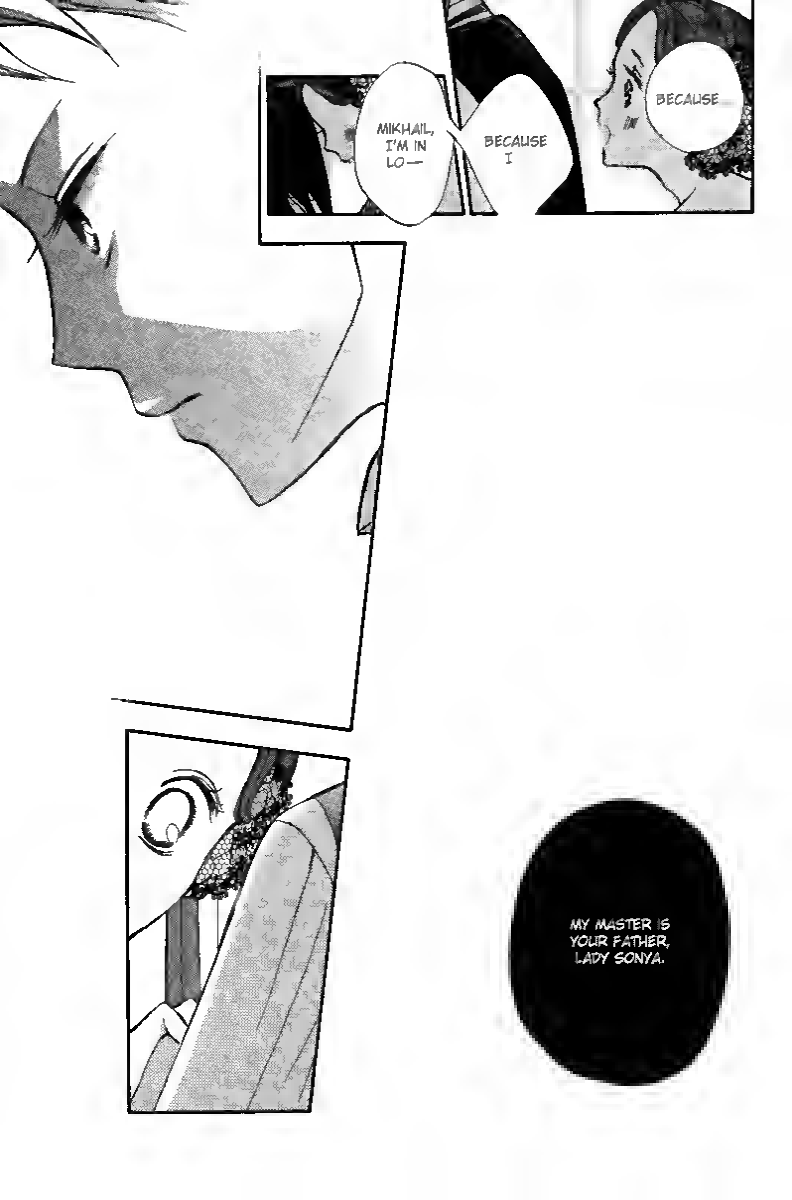
I DON'T KNOW...
After that, the lady continued to do everything her father wanted.
And thus on her eighteenth birthday, her marriage was announced.

I RECALL WHAT YOU SAID TO ME THREE YEARS AGO...
MIKHAIL
THAT TIME, YOU ASKED ME
WHAT I WOULD LIKE TO DO, AND WHAT I TRULY LOVE
NOW, I UNDERSTAND WHAT THE ANSWERS ARE

I HATE THE PERSON FATHER CHOSE FOR ME
IS THAT SO...
THAT IS VERY PERPLEX-ING.
AND I... I HAVE SOMEONE I LOVE.
THAT IS VERY INCONVENIENT.
I WILL NOT MARRY.
ALL RIGHT THEN.
MIKHAIL...
WHY DON'T YOU ASK ME FOR ANY MORE DETAILS?

TAKE ME AWAY FROM HERE
THIS IS AN ORDER!
I CANNOT.

I BEG YOU MIKHAIL, TAKE ME AWAY FROM HERE


MIKHAIL, I'M IN LO—
BECAUSE I
BECAUSE
MY MASTER IS YOUR FATHER, LADY SONYA.

These were the last words I exchanged with the lady
I CANNOT DO ANYTHING TO BETRAY HIM
AFTER THAT LADY SONYA GOT MARRIED AS IF NOTHING HAD HAPPENED...
THE SUBJECT WAS BROUGHT UP SEVERAL TIMES BUT I ALWAYS REFUSED.
I AM A STEWARD* ANYHOW.
AND I SERVED MY MASTER JUST LIKE BEFORE
EXCUSE ME BUT DID YOU
I BELIEVED THAT SERVING MY MASTER WAS EVERYTHING.

*NOTE: HE IMPLIES THAT STEWARDS ARE NOT ENCOURAGED TO GET MARRIED AND CANNOT DO IT WITHOUT THEIR MASTER'S EXPLICIT CONSENT

HOW-
EVER...
MASTER DIED WHEN HE WAS NINETY YEARS OLD,
AND I WAS LEFT NOT KNOWING WHOM TO SERVE ANYMORE.
I DON'T EVEN HAVE A FAMILY WAITING FOR ME.
SO, IN ORDER TO FILL THIS VOID INSIDE OF ME,
I DECIDED TO GO ON A JOURNEY ALONE...

PRAGUE
VIENNA
DRES-DEN
THEY WERE ALL WONDERFUL PLACES
I REGRETTED NOT GOING TO SEE THEM EARLIER.
BUT I GRADUALLY DISCOVERED THAT NO MAT-TER WHERE I WENT,
THERE WAS SOMETHING IN MY HEART THAT COULD NEVER BE FILLED
I TASTED DELICIOUS MEALS, SAW BEAUTIFUL SCENERY, EX-CHANGED WORDS WITH VARIOUS PEOPLE.
AND EVERY
I FELT SOMETHING EXTREMELY PAINFUL AND SUFFOCATING.

AT SUCH MOMENTS, I ALWAYS SAW THE LADY'S FACE BEFORE MY EYES
THE DREARY STEWARD'S PANTRY WHERE THE SUN'S RAYS DIDN'T REACH,
THE LEFTOVER BORSHCH...
THE LADY'S SMILING FACE WAS MUCH MORE WONDERFUL THAN ANY SCENERY OR MEAL. THE BEST SPICE IN THE WORLD...
THIS WAS LOVE...

AT THAT MOMENT,
I PAINFULLY REGRETTED MY WEAKNESS ON THE DAY OF HER WEDDING, WHEN I WOULDN'T TAKE HER AWAY
THE ONE WHO REALLY DIDN'T UNDERSTAND WHAT HE WANTED TO DO AND WHAT HE LOVED WAS ME.
MAYBE IT'S TOO LATE NOW
HOWEVER...
I CAME HERE THINKING THAT NOW HER HUSBAND IS DEAD, I COULD STILL TRY TO LIVE TRUE TO MYSELF.

BUT...
WITH THIS, I FINALLY FOUND MY HEART'S COURAGE TO END THIS JOURNEY.
MR. BABEL, THANK YOU. I'M GLAD YOU HEARD ME OUT.
STAND
AH!
PLEASE, WAIT!
IT'S NOT OVER, YET.
MAY I HAVE YOUR NAME ONCE AGAIN, PLEASE?
I WILL WRITE THE LETTER IN YOUR PLACE.
THIRTY MINUTES SHOULD BE ENOUGH FOR IT
From Mikhail

AH, WHAT A HASTY OLD MAN...
HE LEFT WITHOUT SEEING THE FINISHED LETTER...
THERE'S NOTHING MORE PAINFULLY BEAUTIFUL THAN A LOVE THAT COULD NEVER RIPEN
PEOPLE CALL IT "PURE LOVE" AND ADMIRE IT. THAT IS EXACTLY WHAT YOUR LOVE IS, ISN'T IT.
FLICK

Сибирскаяжелезнолорожная
авария лоезда
жервы 87
TRANS-SIBERIAN MAIN
RAILWAY ACCIDENT
VICTIMS 87 PEOPLE
BURN
MIKHAIL
IT REALLY
REACHED HER.

A MONASTERY IN MOSCOW
I APOLOGIZE FOR THE LATE HOUR.
No no
YOU ARE JUST IN TIME
YESTERDAY, EVERYTHING WAS FULL BECAUSE OF THE BODIES FROM THE TRANS-SIBERIAN MAIN RAILWAY ACCIDENT THAT HAD NO NEXT-OF-KIN TO COME AND CLAIM THEM.
WHAT IS YOUR RELATIONSHIP TO THE DECEASED?
WE USED TO BE MISTRESS AND SERVANT.
THIS WAY, PLEASE
YOU WILL HAVE TO IDENTIFY THE BODY.

Dda Corta
To Lady Sonya
THESE ARE HIS PERSONAL EFFECTS
MAY GOD REST YOUR SOUL AND WORK A MIRACLE FOR YOUR PURE LOVE,
MIKHAIL...
THERE ARE PROBABLY ANGELS OF DEATH WHO WOULD CALL MY WAY OF DOING THINGS ROUND-ABOUT
But today I can strain my ears and hear once more...

I love you.
Я люблю вас.
From Mikhail
От Михаил
those feelings that will never meet again.